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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

School Medical Officer

for the


Year ended 31st December, 1941

BY

W. A. MUIR, M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health
Medical Officer Maternity and Child Welfare Centre
School Medical Officer

1942



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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS,
GILLINGHAM, KENT.

June, 1942

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of
Gillingham.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit a short report for the year ending 31st December, 1941. It has been possible to carry on the usual activities of the Department reasonably well, but Civil Defence duties have occupied not a small proportion of the staff's time.

The death rate was lower and the birth rate higher than in the previous year. The Infant mortality rate was 44 compared with 47. The tuberculosis death rate was slightly lower, but higher than in pre-war years.

The incidence of scarlet fever and diphtheria was considerably below the average of recent years. The diphtheria immunisation clinics were well attended ; 1,988 children received a full course of treatment, a figure almost three times greater than in any previous year. It is estimated that approximately 40% of children under 5 years and 50% of those aged 5 to 15 years are now protected.

I wish to put on record my indebtedness to the staff for the support I have received from them.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

W. A. MUIR,
Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF—PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

See Report for 1940.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres (land, inland water and foreshore) ... 11,201

Rateable Value (April, 1942) £374,392

Sum Represented by a Penny

Rate (1941-42) ... £1,410

In 1941-42 the total Rates were 15/- in the £ (excluding water rate and charges).

Average weekly number of persons in receipt of
Outdoor Relief during the year ended 31st March,
1942 ... 344

Amount paid in Outdoor Relief, year ended 31st
March, 1942 ... £2,109

Number of Gillingham persons admitted to the County
Hospital, Chatham, during the year ended 31st
March, 1942 ... 445

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births :

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 19.2

Still Births :

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... 34.2

Deaths (all causes) :

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated average population ... 12.2

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :

	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal Sepsis ...	1.04
Other Puerperal cause ...	3.11
Total ...	<hr/> 4.15 <hr/>

Death Rate of Infants Under One Year of Age :

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	44
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...			38
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				152

Deaths in Public Institutions :

Two hundred and eighty-five deaths, or 41 per cent. of the total, took place in Institutions.

Natural Increase of Population :

This is measured by the excess of births over deaths. The figure for the year 1941 was 239, and for the previous years as follows :—

Year.					Natural Increase of Population.
1938	...	...	...	...	373
1939	...	...	...	...	324
1940	...	...	...	...	160
1941	...	...	...	...	239

Cancer and Malignant Disease :

Year.				Cancer Death Rate.	Percentage of Total Deaths.
1938	...	...	...	1.6	16.8
1939	...	...	...	1.4	13.0
1940	...	...	...	1.9	13.1
1941	...	...	...	1.8	12.7

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Midwives :

The number of registered midwives at 31st December was 11, of whom 5 are members of the Corporation Staff.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Vaccination :

The percentage of infants known to be successfully vaccinated was 59. The percentage of statutory declarations was 40.6.

I am indebted to the Vaccination Officer for the following figures :—

1.	Number of cases on Birth lists received during 1941, but actually registered between 1st December, 1940, and 30th November, 1941...	738
2.	Number of Vaccination Certificates received between 1st January, 1941, and 31st December, 1941	435
3.	Number of Statutory Declarations received between 1st January, 1941, and 31st December, 1941	300
4.	Number of Postponement Certificates received between 1st January, 1941, and 31st December, 1941 :—	
	(a) Health of Child	17
	(b) Condition of house or prevalence of Infectious Disease in District ...	—
5.	Number of Certificates of Insusceptibility received between 1st January, 1941, and 31st December, 1941	4
6.	Number of cases removed from District ...	42
7.	Number of cases not traced	21

Scarlet Fever :

Notifications numbered 26. Seventeen were removed to hospital.

Number of houses in which

One case occurred	20
Two cases occurred	1
Four cases occurred	1
Number of " return cases "	—

Diphtheria :

Ten cases were notified, but five were found to be suffering from tonsilitis.

Immunisation against Diphtheria :

During the year 1,988 children were immunised, of whom 847 were under five years of age.

Two injections of A.P.T. are given at monthly intervals. Under eight years of age the dosage employed was 0.2 cc. and 0.5 cc., and over eight years 0.1 cc. and 0.3 cc.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever :

Ten patients were notified, but one was incorrectly diagnosed. Three cases proved fatal.

Enteric Fever :

Four cases were notified, and all recovered. Bacteriologically they proved to be cases of Paratyphoid B. infection.

Pneumonia :

Notifications numbered 33, the same number as in 1941 :—

Influenzal Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2
Acute Primary Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	31

Measles and Whooping Cough :

The following cases were notified :—

Measles	...	...	...	...	...	426
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	221

HOSPITAL TREATMENT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Admissions to Keycol Hill Hospital numbered 39, compared with 42 in the previous year.

The following table gives details :—

Disease.	Cases.	Average. duration.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	17	46 days	Nil
Diphtheria	9*	26 "	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	6	14 "	1
Erysipelas	1	5 "	Nil
Typhoid	4	45 "	Nil
Poliomyelitis	1	51 "	Nil
Totals	39		2

* Five proved to be Tonsillitis.

The following table summarises the work of the Clinic since its inception in April 1935.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CLINICS.

Clinic	Year	Number of 1st Schick Tests	Results		Number of Inoculations			Total Attendances
			Pos.	Neg.	1st	2nd	3rd	
Rainham	1935*	—	—	—	112	109	100	—
	1936	4	1	3	196	187	187	—
	1937	2	—	2	163	164	149	—
	1938	—	—	—	295	298	294	—
	1939	—	—	—	97	96	73	—
	1940	—	—	—	31	24	2	57
	1941	—	—	—	382	307	2	691
	TOTAL	6	1	5	1276	1185	807	—
Gillingham	1935*	5	3	2	339	310	275	—
	1936	27	11	11	472	461	471	—
	1937	25	18	9	551	543	549	—
	1938	—	—	—	718	693	658	—
	1939	3	—	3	571	575	346	—
	1940	4	1	3	129	127	56	328
	1941	12	7	5	1252	1153	2	2431
	TOTAL	76	40	33	4032	3862	2357	—

* Part of the year. The scheme for the immunisation of children against Diphtheria was inaugurated in April, 1935.

SUMMARY OF COMPLETED CASES.

YEAR	Under 5 years of age			5—12 years of age			Over 12 years of age			GRAND TOTAL
	Gillingham	Rainham	Total	Gillingham	Rainham	Total	Gillingham	Rainham	Total	
1935 ...	72	28	100	158	73	231	39	5	44	375
1936 ...	140	47	187	301	130	431	36	4	40	658
1937 ...	168	49	217	365	99	464	16	1	17	698
1938 ...	235	88	323	411	197	608	12	9	21	952
1939 ...	261	44	305	353	55	408	12	2	14	727
1940 ...	114	44	158	66	10	76	26	—	26	260
1941 ...	695	162	847	775	189	964	166	11	177	1988
TOTALS	1675	462	2137	2429	753	3182	307	32	339	5658

During 1940, the number of children who failed to attend for a complete course of injections was 5

Disinfections :

Houses disinfected by formalin spraying in connection with tuberculosis cases numbered 114.

Tuberculosis :

Notification of new cases :—

			Pulmonary. Rate per 1,000 of population.	Non-Pulmonary. Rate per 1,000 of population.
1936	...	...	0.7	0.2
1937	...	...	0.7	0.3
1938	...	...	0.8	0.2
1939	...	...	0.6	0.4
1940	...	...	1.3	0.2
1941	...	...	1.3	0.5

**PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS,
1930**

					Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total.
Number on Register at 1st January,							
1941	...	...	...	...	160	96	256
Number on Register at 31st Decem-							
ber, 1941	...	...	...	...	186	111	297

Table compiled from local records, giving details with regard to sex, age, etc., of notified new cases and deaths during 1941 :

Age Periods	New Cases			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	—	—	2	1
5—15 „	—	—	5	2
15—25 „	6	11	2	5
25—35 „	15	6	3	3
35—45 „	13	1	1	—
45—55 „	7	2	—	—
55—65 „	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—
Total ...	43	20	13	11

Tuberculosis Death Rate :

The following table is inserted for purposes of comparison :

Year	Death Rates per 1,000 of Population		
	All Forms	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1938	0.58	0.49	0.08
1939	0.50	0.44	0.05
1940	0.97	0.80	0.17
1941	0.91	0.78	0.12

Particulars of patients from the Gillingham District who were dealt with at the County Tuberculosis Dispensary during the year ended December 31st, 1941 :—

Number of New Cases :

Male (including children)	...	...	...	144
Female	„	„	...	129
Total	...	...	...	273

Venereal Diseases :

I am indebted to Dr. Nicol, medical officer in charge of the County Council V.D. Clinic in Rochester, for the subjoined figures.

New Patients—Gillingham :

		Male.	Female.	Total.
Syphilis	...	31	14	45
Soft sore	...	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea	...	35	11	46
Non-Venereal	...	26	10	36
		—	—	—
		92	35	127
		—	—	—

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Public Health Act, 1936 :

Ninety-nine per cent. of births were notified by midwives ;

the remainder by doctors or parents.

39.41 per cent. took place in institutions.

Twin births numbered 9.

Home Visiting:

Home visits under the M. and C.W. Scheme numbered 10,186.

The following is a summary of home visits:—

	1941.	1940.
Visits to expectant mothers	184	200
First visits to living infants	782	825
Re-visits under 1 year	2,549	2,863
Visits 1 to 5 years	4,759	5,145
Visits <i>re</i> Milk Order	62	28
Visits <i>re</i> Ophthalmia Neonatorum	30	22
Visits <i>re</i> Measles	167	6
Visits <i>re</i> Whooping Cough	142	5
Visits <i>re</i> Cricken Pox	7	2
Visits <i>re</i> Mumps	7	—
Visits <i>re</i> Boarded-Out Children	47	61
Other Visits	1,450	1,829
Totals	<u>10,186</u>	<u>10,986</u>

Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids:

Children under 5 years are examined at the child welfare centres and, if requiring operation, referred to a private doctor or to hospital. The number referred was 3.

Ophthalmic Treatment:

Twenty-three children affected with defective vision (including 11 with squint) were examined at the ophthalmic clinic by Dr. Dunlop, and glasses prescribed for 19. Attendances numbered 38.

Dental Defects :

The following is a summary of the work during the year :—

Number of sessions held	...	...	...	...	35
Number of expectant mothers treated	...	...	...	...	103
Number of nursing mothers treated	...	...	...	...	28
Number of children treated	...	...	...	...	64
Total attendances of expectant mothers	...	...	...	...	178
Total attendances of nursing mothers	...	...	...	...	71
Total attendances of children	...	...	...	...	70
Extractions					
	Permanent—Expectant mothers	...	...	...	673
	Permanent—Nursing mothers	...	...	...	150
	Temporary	...	...	...	316
Fillings ...					
	Expectant mothers	...	...	...	53
	Nursing mothers	...	...	...	22
	Children	...	...	...	—
Administrations of Anæsthetics					
	Expectant mothers	...	...	...	128
	Nursing mothers	...	...	...	42
	Children	...	...	...	69
Other Operations					
	Expectant mothers	...	...	...	1
	Nursing mothers	...	...	...	1
	Children	...	...	...	—
Payments					
	Expectant mothers	...	...	...	£11 4s. 6d.
	Nursing mothers	...	...	...	£3 14s. od.
	Children	...	...	...	£6 18s. 6d.
Total					£21 17s. od.

Dentures supplied :—

Full upper and lower	...	...	...	22
Full upper and part lower	...	...	...	4
Full upper	...	...	...	2
Part upper and lower	...	...	...	1
Part upper	...	...	...	9
Part lower	...	...	...	1
Gross cost	...	...	...	£156 19s. od.
Amount recovered from patients	...	...	...	£103 13s. 6d.
Net cost to Corporation	...	...	...	£53 5s. 6d.

Child Welfare Centres :

Total attendances numbered 18,189, of which 4,868 were in respect of children aged 1 to 5 years.

Attendances :

					Balmoral Gardens.	Rainham Centre.
1937	...	...	...	...	17,096	3,067
1938	...	...	...	...	17,871	3,336
1939	...	...	...	...	14,822	4,112
1940	...	...	...	...	10,592	3,455
1941	...	...	...	...	13,241	4,958

The following Table gives details of each Centre during the year :—

					Balmoral Gardens.	Rainham Centre.
Children under 1 year on register for first time					688	194
Children 1 to 5 years on register for first time					158	52
Average attendance per session	...	...			65	95
Total children on registered, December, 1941 .					1,851	587
Children referred for treatment to hospital or private doctor	...	...	...	...	25	3
Umbilical Hernia strapped	...	...	...		68	23

SUPPLY OF MILK TO MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

Corporation Scheme :

Number of packets of dried milk supplied during 1941 :—

	Rainham.	Gillingham.	Total.
(a) Free	219	260	479
(b) Sold	1,863	6,607	8,470
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	2,082	6,867	8,949
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Distribution of National Dried Milk :

	Number of Packets		
	Supplied Free.	Sold.	Total.
Distributed for the Milk Officer ...	1,654	4,823	6,477
Supplied by the Corporation ...	619	—	619
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	2,273	4,823	7,096
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Cost of dried milk supplied free by the Corporation :—

	£	s.	d.
Various dried milks	7	4	7½
National dried milk	36	2	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	£43	6	9½
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

CLINIC FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS

The number of expectant mothers attending for the first time was 429, compared with 372 in the previous year.

Summary :

	Balmoral Gardens Centre.	Rainham Centre.
Expectant mothers	381	48
Attendances by expectant mothers ...	975	121
Expectant mothers referred for treatment to private practitioners or hospitals	27	2
Post-natal cases	5	5
Attendances by post-natal cases ...	49	12
Post-natal cases referred for treatment	5	1
Found not pregnant	10	2
Cases referred to Maternity Homes ...	15	1
Average attendance per session ...	20	7

The attendances, etc., were as follows:—

	Balmoral Gardens Centre.	Rainham Centre.	Total 1941.	Total 1940.
New cases, post-natal included ...	386	53	439	381
Attendances ...	1,024	133	1,157	942

Ante-natal and Post-natal Examinations by Private Practitioners :

Three hundred and sixty-four individual mothers received examination during the year.

The following is a summary of the examinations made:—

Number of first ante-natal examinations ...	256
Number of second ante-natal examinations ...	173
Number of post-natal examinations ...	146
Total ...	575

Institutional Midwifery :

Twenty-six civilians were admitted to the Naval Maternity Home, and 97 to the County Hospital, Chatham.

Supervision of Midwives :

The Corporation is the Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives' Act, 1902-1936. Eleven midwives gave notice of their intention to practise during the year.

The following return was made to the Ministry of Health:—

	Domicil'y Midwives	Midwives in Inst'ns	Totals
1. Total number of midwives practising at the end of the year in the area of the Local Supervising Authority:—			
(a) Employed by the Local Supervising Authority ...	5	—	5*
(b) Employed by Voluntary Associations:—	—	5	5
(c) In private practice ...	1	—	1
TOTALS ...	6	5	11

	Domicil'y Cases	Cases in Inst'ns	Totals
2. Number of cases in the area of the Local Supervising Authority attended during the year by midwives :—			
(a) Employed by the Council :—			
As Midwives	318	—	318
As Maternity Nurses...	82	—	82
(b) Employed by Voluntary Associations :—			
As Midwives	—	140	140
As Maternity Nurses ...	—	167	167
(c) In private practice—			
As Midwives	68	—	68
As Maternity Nurses ...	1	—	1
TOTALS			
As Midwives	386	140	526
As Maternity Nurses ...	83	167	250

* An additional Municipal Midwife was transferred to Surrey to look after expectant mothers evacuated from Gillingham.

3. Number of cases in which medical aid was summoned during the year under Section 14 (i) of the Midwives Act, 1918, by a midwife :—				
(i) engaged in domiciliary practice	88			
(ii) in institutional practice	66			
	Total	154		
4. Number of domiciliary births during the year in the area of the Local Supervising Authority	472			

Records of Sending for Medical Help :

Year	Notifications Received		Total	Percentage of Births in which Medical help was called
	On behalf of Mother	On behalf of Child		
1939	252	37	289	27%
1940	176	34	210	26%
1941	140	14	154	20%

The following notifications were also received from midwives :—

Discontinuance of breast-feeding	...	...	7
Death of child	...	...	3
Still-births	...	...	8
Source of infection	...	...	4
			—
Total	...	...	22
			—

Midwives Act, 1918 (Section 14) :

The Ministry prescribes the scale of fees to be paid by Local Supervising Authorities to medical practitioners called in by midwives.

Eighty-seven accounts amounting to a total of £152 14s. 6d. were paid by the Corporation.

In accordance with the Corporation's scale of income, £104 3s. 6d. was due to be paid by patients, but the sum received by the end of the year was £65 19s. 0d.

Whole fees due to be paid by patient	...	50
Part fees due to be paid by patient	...	12
Whole fees due to be paid by Corporation...		25

Home Helps :

These were employed on 9 occasions.

	£	s.	d.
Gross cost to Corporation	24	5	0
Amount to be recovered	4	2	0
Amount recovered at 31st December...	1	5	0

Consultants for Midwifery Patients :

A consultant was called in on 4 occasions.

	£	s.	d.
Gross cost to Corporation	14	14	0
Amount due to be received from patient	13	13	0
Amount received by 31st December...	3	3	0

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION

Summary :

Number of foster-mothers (December, 1941) ...	26
Foster children (December, 1941)	29
Visits by nurses	47
Total number of children removed from the register during the year	7
Returned to parents	5
Over age	2

Infant Mortality :

Deaths of Infants under 1 year numbered 39, which represents an infant mortality rate of **44 per 1,000** births, compared with 47 per 1,000 in the previous year.

The rate for London was 68, and for England and Wales 59 per 1,000 live births.

Maternal Mortality :

There were 4 deaths associated with pregnancy.

Birth Control Clinic :

This is conducted monthly by Dr. Dunlop.

Number of sessions	12
New cases	8
Number of attendances	11
Number advised	6

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The subjoined Table shews the premises on the registers and the number of inspections made.

	On Register 31st Dec	No. of visits during 1941	No. of Notices	No. of defects remedied
Bakehouses	20	69	2	2
Dairies and Milkshops	46	258	—	—
Retailers of bottled sterilised milk	131			
Cowsheds	14	27	—	—
Slaughterhouses	Nil	9	—	—
Fried Fish Shops	30	60	—	—
Pressed and Preserved Meat Premises	96	143	—	—
Restaurants	28	24	—	—

Milk Supply :

Of those given in the foregoing Table, 14 purveyors have registered premises situated outside the Borough.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 :

The following licences were issued during 1941 :—

Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Dealer's licence to retail (supplementary)	1
--	---

Pasteurised Milk.

Supplementary licence to retail	1
--	---

MILK SAMPLES

Tuberculin Tested Milk :

Number of samples	2
-------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Number satisfactory	2
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Pasteurised Milk :

Number of samples	Nil
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Inspection of Cows :

The number in milk at the end of the year was approximately 127.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938 :

Particulars of samples taken by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year :—

Articles.						No. of Samples.
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	139
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	1
Camphorated Oil	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	1
Chicken and Ham	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cocoa	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cod Liver Oil	...	...	...	...	...	1
Coffee	...	...	...	...	...	1
Custard Powder	...	...	...	...	...	2

Articles						No of Samples
Flour	...	...	...	...	...	3
Jam ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Iodine	...	...	...	...	...	1
Lard	...	...	...	...	...	2
Oatmeal	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rice	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	5
Tapioca	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tongue	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total						164

Prosecutions :

Four persons were prosecuted under Section 3 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for selling adulterated milk, with the following results:—

- (a) £2 fine and £1 1s. od. advocate's fee.
- (b) £1 fine.
- (c) Three offences—
 - (i) £10 fine and £2 2s. od. advocate's fee.
 - (ii) 4s. costs.
 - (iii) 4s. costs.
- (d) £2 fine.

Unsound Food :

Amount of food condemned was 3 tons 10 cwts. 7 lbs.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 :

In accordance with Section 3 of this Act, the number of persons licensed to slaughter was 2. Licences remain in force for three years.

Potted and Preserved Meat Premises :

At 31st December, premises registered numbered 96.

Ice Cream Shops :

At the end of the year the number on the register was 134, compared with 139 in the previous year.

Fried Fish Shops :

Number on register is 30. Visits numbered 60.

HOUSING SUMMARY

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1,071
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	3,356
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (including under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	Nil
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	1
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	449

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	184
--	-----

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—

Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	294
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners	260
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	32

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply :

Results of Bacteriological Examinations of Samples.

CHATHAM & DISTRICT WATER COMPANY

Twelve samples were taken at monthly intervals. All proved satisfactory.

RAINHAM WATER COMPANY

Twenty-six samples were taken at intervals throughout the year. All proved satisfactory.

SWIMMING BATH

Two samples of water from the Swimming Bath (1 inlet and 1 outlet) proved satisfactory.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

This portion of the report has been prepared from information supplied by Mr. D. Ball, Chief Sanitary Inspector.

PREMISES, Etc., VISITED DURING 1941.

	No. of Visits						
Milk shops and dairies and retailers of bottled sterilised milk	404
Cowsheds	88
Bakehouses	69
Slaughterhouses	9
Factories, workshops, and workplaces	339
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	41
Re notified infectious diseases	100
Houses (filthy or verminous)	104
Refreshment houses, or premises where food is prepared	318
School lavatories	160
Shops under Shops Acts	3,239
Public lavatories	1,366
Drains tested	65

NUISANCES ABATED.

Complaints received	223
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WATER CLOSETS :

New L.C.C. pans and traps fitted	37
Water closets re-built	3
Water closet fittings repaired (water)	73
Water closet seats, doors, floors, brickwork repaired .	66
Water closet pans cleansed by tenants	2

WATER SUPPLY :

Pipes repaired	24
-----------------------	----

YARDS :

Drained and paved with cement concrete	26
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SINKS AND BATHS :

Glazed stoneware sinks fixed	10
Sink waste pipes provided and fixed	30

DRAINAGE :

Drains repaired	20
Subsidiary sewers cleared by Health Department ...	1,140
Drains cleared by owners	13
Inspection chambers repaired by owners	3
Vent shafts repaired by Works Department	3

DAMPNESS :

Roofs repaired and made watertight	110
Eaves guttering and down water pipes provided or repaired	86
External walls protected from dampness	92
Damp-proof courses inserted under walls	19
Ventilation provided under floors	3
Forecourts paved with cement concrete	11

GENERAL :

Disused cesspools filled in	...	...	...	...	2
Accumulation of refuse in yard removed	...	...	...	...	3
Cellar walls cleansed and concrete laid to floor	...	...	...	...	3
Cooking ranges and coppers repaired	...	...	...	...	64
Sashes, doors, frames, floors, and stairs repaired	...	...	...	...	147
Rooms re-papered and ceilings repaired and dis-tempered	...	...	...	...	187
Smoke nuisance abated	...	...	...	...	23

PRELIMINARY AND ABATEMENT NOTICES.

During the year the following notices were served:—

Informal Notices for the abatement of various nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	512
Abatement Notices concerning various nuisances (Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936)	...	...	...	...	...	177
Section 24 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Maintenance of a public sewer)	...	...	...	...	...	28
Section 39a of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Defective sanitary appliance)	...	...	...	...	...	44
Section 44 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Reconstruction of defective W.C. accommodation)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Section 79 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Notice to remove noxious matter)	...	...	...	...	...	2
Section 83 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Notice to cleanse premises)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gillingham Corporation Act, 1931, Section 72, respecting choked or defective drains	...	...	...	...	...	49

Provision of Sanitary Dustbins :

Section 100 of the Gillingham Corporation Act, 1931, requires the service of notices upon owners to provide regulation sanitary dustbins.

The following figures show the position at 31st December, 1941 :—

Total to 31st Dec.,
1941.

Number of notices served ... 3,431

Number of notices complied with ... 3,369

Factories Act, 1937 :

There are 218 factories on the register ; 339 inspections were made. Outworkers' premises numbered 110.

Eradication of Bed-Bugs :

The number of houses found to be infested was :—

Council Houses	...	...	...	...	6
Other Houses	...	...	...	...	55
					—
			Total	...	61
					—

Number of Houses sprayed ... 61

Number of Houses fumigated ... Nil

Number of Houses sprayed and fumigated ... Nil

Total number of rooms fumigated or sprayed ... 251

Furniture and bedding removed and disinfested ... Nil

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919 :

The Inspector appointed under the Act investigated 473 complaints.

Shops Acts and Shops (Early Closing) Order :

One of the Sanitary Inspectors is also Shops Inspector and gives approximately one-third of his time to duties concerned with the Shops Acts.

Visits to shops numbered 3,239.

LICENCES

Licences were granted for the following :—

Petroleum	...	...	...	...	11
Calcium Carbide	...	...	...	...	1

MORTUARY

Forty-four bodies were received and 25 post-mortems performed.

Table showing :—(a) The distribution in age groups of infectious disease cases notified during 1941.
 (b) The number removed to Hospital.
 (c) The total number of deaths in the Borough from these diseases.

(Local Records).

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED														Total cases removed to Hospital	Deaths
	AT AGES							YEARS								
	All ages	Under 1	1 and under 2	2 and under 3	3 and under 4	4 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 15	15 and under 20	20 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 65	Over 65			
Scarlet Fever	26	—	—	2	3	1	11	2	4	3	—	—	—	17	—	
Diphtheria	5	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	
Pneumonia	33	3	3	2	—	—	3	—	3	1	7	7	4	2	40	
Erysipelas... ..	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	8	—	1	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	1	1	
Typhoid	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	4	—	
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	9	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	1	2	1	—	—	9	4	
Measles	426	14	31	40	48	63	208	10	7	4	14	—	—	—	2	
Whooping Cough...	221	21	31	33	24	24	79	3	1	4	—	—	1	—	4	
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	

**Causes of Deaths amongst Civilians, Live Births and Still Births
as provided by the Registrar-General:—**

CAUSES OF DEATH						Male	Fem'le	Total			
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers					—	—	—			
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever					1	3	4			
3.	Scarlet Fever					—	—	—			
4.	Whooping Cough					1	3	4			
5.	Diphtheria					—	—	—			
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...					27	11	38			
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis					2	4	6			
8.	Syphilitic Diseases					4	2	6			
9.	Influenza					3	—	3			
10.	Measles					—	2	2			
11.	Acute polio-myelitis & polio-encephalitis ...					—	—	—			
12.	Acute Infectious Encephalitis					—	—	—			
13.	Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus males only)					4	—	4			
14.	Cancer of Uterus					—	9	9			
15.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum					10	7	17			
16.	Cancer of Breast					—	13	13			
17.	Cancer of all other sites					19	26	45			
18.	Diabetes					2	4	6			
19.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions					29	22	51			
20.	Heart Disease					85	81	166			
21.	Other Diseases of the Circulatory System ...					6	5	11			
22.	Bronchitis					25	22	47			
23.	Pneumonia					24	16	40			
24.	Other Respiratory Diseases					9	6	15			
25.	Ulceration of the Stomach or Duodenum ...					8	4	12			
26.	Diarrhœa (under 2 years)					—	1	1			
27.	Appendicitis					2	5	7			
28.	Other Digestive Diseases					12	10	22			
29.	Nephritis					7	8	15			
30.	Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis					—	1	1			
31.	Other Maternal Causes					—	3	3			
32.	Premature Birth					2	5	7			
33.	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease					6	4	10			
34.	Suicide					7	4	11			
35.	Road Traffic Accidents					3	1	4			
36.	Other Violent Causes					10	9	19			
37.	All Other Causes					42	51	93			
ALL CAUSES						350	342	692			
Deaths of Infants under 1 year :—											
Legitimate						13	19	32			
Illegitimate						4	3	7			
Total						17	22	39			
Births						For Infant Mortality, etc.			For Birth Rate		
						M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
LIVE BIRTHS :—											
Legitimate						444	402	846	464	421	885
Illegitimate						25	21	46	25	21	46
Total						469	423	892	489	442	931
STILL BIRTHS :—											
Legitimate						12	20	32	12	21	33
Illegitimate						—	—	—	—	—	—
Total						12	20	32	12	21	33

BOROUGH OF GILLINGHAM
KENT
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Annual Report
OF THE
School Medical Officer

W. A. MUIR, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

FOR THE

Year ending December, 31st, 1941

STAFF

School Medical Officer :

W. A. Muir, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant School Medical Officer :

Meta L. Dunlop, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

J. Dunbar, M.A., M.B., (part time and temporary)

Dental Surgeon

R. N. Merrett, L.D.S. (part time)

Dental Anaesthetist :

Agnes L. Kelly, B.A., M.B. (part time and temporary)

Operative Treatment of Tonsils and Adenoids :

*A. G. Woodforde, Esq., M.B.

Nurses :

Miss W. Brandreth, (whole time)

24/6/40 temporarily transferred to Midwifery Service

Miss N. Legg (half time)

Miss E. M. Ross (half time)

Mrs. A. Leach (one-third time)

Miss R. Hopkins (one-third time)

Miss M. Hughes (one-third time)

Miss H. Parry (one-third time)

Clerks :

Chief Clerk—F. Eric Young

Miss T. Darby

Dental Attendant and Clerk :

VACANT

* Hon. Staff, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester

MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS,
GILLINGHAM, KENT.

February, 1942

To the Chairman and Members of the
Education Committee.

I herewith submit the annual report on the work of the school medical department for the year ended 31st December, 1941.

The activities of the department, which were much disorganised during 1940, have functioned more normally during the twelve months under review. Many evacuated children have returned and during the year school attendance was made compulsory again.

There is no evidence that the physical or mental welfare of the children has been prejudicially affected by war conditions. Ninety-seven per cent were classified as of 'excellent' or 'normal' nutrition. At the end of the year seventy-seven per cent were receiving milk in school and approximately thirty-five per cent a mid-day meal.

There has been no increase in uncleanness. Scabies cases were fewer than in the previous year, but the disease is more widespread than in pre-war years.

I am indebted to Mr. Young, my Chief Clerk, for furnishing all figures required by the Board.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W. A. Muir,

School Medical Officer.

SUMMARY

Number on School Roll	...	...	4951
Approx attendance December, 1941		...	3482
"Routine" cases examined	...	...	1665
Total medical examinations	...	...	2407
Visits to schools by nurses	...	...	173
Visits to homes by nurses	...	...	1180
Inspections by school dentist	...	...	1377
Treated by school dentist	...	...	738
Percentage of average attendance found verminous			6.4
Percentage of average attendance excluded for verminous conditions	...	...	2.2
Total attendances at various clinics (dental excluded)			4522

STAFF

A temporary junior clerk was appointed in January, 1941

Starting in May, the part-time School Dental Surgeon devoted five half-days instead of four to the treatment of school children.

Dr. Kelly took up temporary duty as dental anaesthetist on 21st November. She attends once weekly.

NUTRITION

In accordance with the requirements of the Board of Education children examined at routine inspections are classified as *Excellent*, *Normal*, *Slightly subnormal*, or *Bad*.

The figures for the past 7 years are as follows—

	Excellent %	Normal %	Slightly Sub-normal %	Bad %
1935	13.2	84.7	2.0	0.1
1936	10.5	87.8	1.7	—
1937	12.3	85.3	2.4	—
1938	13.0	85.3	1.7	2 cases
1939	15.9	82.2	1.9	—
1940	17.92	79.20	2.88	—
1941	15.02	81.98	2.76	0.24

HEIGHTS AND WEIGHTS

Age.	B O Y S			G I R L S		
	Number examined	Average		Number examined	Average	
		Height in inches	Weight in lbs.		Height in inches	Weight in lbs.
5-6 years	18	44 $\frac{1}{4}$	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	10	43 $\frac{1}{4}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$
6-7 „	249	44 $\frac{3}{4}$	46	228	45	45 $\frac{1}{2}$
7-8 „	161	47 $\frac{1}{4}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	137	46 $\frac{3}{4}$	49 $\frac{1}{2}$
8-9 „	153	43 $\frac{1}{4}$	57	149	42 $\frac{3}{4}$	56 $\frac{1}{4}$
9-10 „	100	51 $\frac{3}{4}$	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	115	50	58 $\frac{3}{4}$
10-11 „	64	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	67	55	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$
11-12 „	37	55	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	26	55	70 $\frac{1}{2}$
12-13 „	46	56 $\frac{3}{4}$	79 $\frac{3}{4}$	59	58 $\frac{3}{4}$	84 $\frac{1}{4}$
13-14 „	47	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	85	25	60	88 $\frac{3}{4}$
14-15 „	8	60	90 $\frac{3}{4}$	—	—	—

PROVISION OF MILK

The Education Secretary has supplied the following information :-

(a) Free Milk for Necessitous Children

The free milk sheme has been in operation throughout the year.

Number of necessitous children provided with free milk at the end of the year	... 89
---	--------

Maximum number of children to whom milk was supplied during any one week	... 91
--	--------

Total quantity of milk supplied during the year,	18,265 bottles (one-third pint)
--	---------------------------------

(b) "Milk in Schools Scheme"

This scheme has been in operation throughout the year.

The number of children who bought the milk on one day during the first week of December was 3841 (representing 77 per cent of the total number of children on roll). Of this number 3092 children had milk in the morning only and 749 in the morning and afternoon.

SCHOOL MEALS

Meals are provided for school children at Rainham Junior Council School canteen and at four British Restaurants, three of which are in school premises.

During January 1942, the average number of school children receiving meals in any one week was 1750, of which 680 were served at the Rainham school canteen.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following summary gives the number of patients excluded during the years 1937-41 (Private schools included)

			Scarlet Fever Cases	Diphtheria Cases
1937	...	...	151	28
1938	...	..	182	118
1939	...	...	121	49
1940	...	...	7	11
1941	...	...	8	2

MEASLES, WHOOPING COUGH, CHICKEN-POX, MUMPS

		Year	1938	1939	1940	1941
Measles	773	10	72	550
German measles	18	13	8	15
Whooping cough	128	208	13	264
Chicken-pox	173	563	17	1
Mumps	29	9	—	15

FOLLOWING-UP BY NURSES

The nurses paid 1180 (879) home visits, of which 535 were to make enquiries with regard to children suffering from infectious diseases.

Summary of School Medical Work

		1939	1940	1941
(1) Total visits to schools	...	287	207	173
(2) Attendances at routine medical inspections	...	...	75	39
				68

		1939	1940	1941
(3) Attendances at clinics	...	444	520	639
(4) Visits to home re				
(a) Defective children	...	832	811	645
(b) Infectious diseases	...	860	68	535
(5) Examination of head and bodies				
re cleanliness	... ..	16,206	8,740	9,754
(6) Notices sent re nits (children				
not excluded from school)	...	216	130	147
(7) Notices sent re nits and vermin				
(children excluded from school)	139		57	75

MEDICAL TREATMENT

The Balmoral Gardens Minor Ailment Clinic is open daily at 9 a.m. except during holidays, and the Rainham Centre three times a week. Total attendances numbering 3,222 were made by 745 children.

ATTENDANCES AT TREATMENT CLINICS

		Balmoral Gardens	Rainham	Total 1941	Total 1940
Ringworm	...	83	—	83	90
Ear defects	...	190	62	252	132
Impetigo	...	734	71	805	324
Eczema	...	3	5	8	25
Scabies	...	109	60	169	188
Alopecia	...	2	—	2	2
External eye disease	...	164	—	164	53
Other conditions	...	1,192	547	1,739	1,049
Total	...	2,477	745	3,222	1,863

Children suffering from the following conditions made 1,050 attendances for inspection. :--

	Balmoral Gardens	Rainham	Total 1941	Total 1940
Catarrh, sore throats, colds, etc.	—	—	—	2
Vermin of head or body, nits, etc.	33	4	37	487
Ringworm	25	—	25	17
Impetigo	40	3	43	18
Scabies	95	3	98	163
Eczema	5	—	5	2
Other skin diseases	16	—	16	27
Defective vision, "sore eyes," etc.	108	21	129	26
Nose and throat diseases ...	68	11	79	53
Tubercular and pretubercular conditions	2	—	2	4
Chorea	—	—	—	1
Epilepsy	—	—	—	—
Ear disease	68	7	75	10
Heart disease	10	10	20	5
Rheumatism	3	—	3	2
Deformities	1	—	1	6
Convalescents from infectious diseases	14	—	14	12
Other diseases or defects ...	408	95	503	282
Totals ...	<u>896</u>	<u>154</u>	<u>1,050</u>	<u>1,171</u>

NOSE AND THROAT DEFECTS

Eighty children received operative treatment at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester ; the parents of 26 of these were subscribers.

Two children received operative treatment elsewhere.

Children are inspected by the school dentist prior to operation.

OPHTHALMIC CLINIC

Dr. Dunlop is in charge of the eye clinic. 151 children made 250 attendances ; glasses were prescribed in 102 cases and obtained in 78 (76%).

Errors of Refraction :

Hypermetropic astigmatism	...	23	= 29.5%
Myopic astigmatism	... ..	5	= 6.5%
Mixed astigmatism	... ..	6	= 7.6%
Hypermetropia	... ..	26	= 33.3%
Myopia	... ..	18	= 23.1%
Total			<hr/> 78 <hr/>

The work of the clinic may be summarised thus :—

Sessions held	... ..	43
Individual children attended	... ..	151
Total attendances	... ..	250
Glasses prescribed	... ..	102
Glasses not required or no change necessary		35
Referred to hospital	... ..	2

PARENT'S PAYMENTS FOR TREATMENT

Parents pay small sums towards the cost of treatment except when they are necessitous.

	Parents' payments			Net Cost to Committee		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Operations for throat and nose defects	9	10	0	17	0	
Provision of spectacles... ..	16	19	8	1	4	5
Dental treatment	87	5	7	—		
Total ...	£113	15	3			

UNCLEANLINESS

The average number of visits by nurses to school departments was 4. Total examinations numbered 9754 and 222 individual children were found unclean.

The following percentages are interesting:—

Year	Percentage of average attendance found verminous		Percentage of average attendance excluded
1936	6.6	2.9
1937	7.1	3.2
1938	6.4	3.2
1939	4.6	1.3
1940	7.1	1.7
1941	6.4	2.2

The percentage figures for 1941 must be treated with reserve, as the average attendance on which the calculation is made is an estimated figure.

SCABIES

There was a decrease in the number of cases of Scabies treated—46 against 52 in the previous year. In 1939, however, there were only 15 cases.

Board of Education

STATISTICAL TABLES

TABLE I—MEDICAL INSPECTIONS OF CHILDREN
ATTENDING PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

A.—Routine Medical Inspections

Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups				
Entrants	...	...	...	833
Second Age Group	...	...	...	599
Third Age Group	...	...	...	233
Total		...	...	1665
Number of other Routine Inspections				
...	...	...	...	22
GRAND TOTAL		...	...	1687

B.—Other Inspections

Number of Special Inspections and Re-Inspections	...	720
--	-----	-----

TABLE II

Classification of the Nutrition of Children Inspected during the year
in the Routine Age Groups.

Number of Children Inspected	A (Excellent)		B (Normal)		C (Slightly Subnormal)		D (Bad)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1665	250	15.02	1365	81.98	46	2.76	4	0.24

TABLE III.

Treatment Tables

Group I.—MINOR AILMENTS (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Table V.).

Disease or Defect.	Number of Defects treated, or under treatment during the year.		
	Under the Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Skin :			
Ringworm-Scalp			
(i). X-Ray Treatment. If none, indicate by dash.	—	—	—
(ii). Other Treatment ...	1	—	1
Ringworm-Body	5	—	5
Scabies	46	—	46
Impetigo	62	—	62
Other skin diseases	85	—	85
Minor Eye Defects (External and other, but excluding cases falling in Group II).	51	1	52
Minor Ear Defects	24	—	24
Miscellaneous (e.g., minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.).	173	2	175
Total	447	3	450

Table III. (Continued).

Group II.—DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT (excluding Minor Eye Defects treated as Minor Ailments—Group I.).

	No. of defects dealt with		
	Under the Authority's Scheme	Otherwise	Total
Errors of Refraction (including squint).	151	2	153
Other Defect or Disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I)	—	—	—
Total	151	2	153
No. of Children for whom spectacles were			
(a) Prescribed	102	2	104
(b) Obtained	78	2	80

Table III. (Continued).

Group III.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT

NUMBER OF DEFECTS.				
Received Operative Treatment.			Received other forms of Treatment	Total number treated.
Under the Authority's Scheme, in Clinic or Hospital. (1)	By Private Practitioner or Hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme. (2)	Total. (3)		
80	2	82	7	89

TABLE IV.—DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

The heading "Specials" in this Table relates to all children inspected by the School Dentist otherwise than in the course of the routine inspection of children in one of the age groups covered by the Authority's approved scheme, namely, to children specially selected by him, or referred by Medical Officers, Parents, Teachers, etc., on account of urgency. The number inspected in each routine age-group are separately shown; as well as the total, but under "Special" only the total number are given.

Temporary fillings, whether in permanent or temporary teeth, are recorded as other operations

(1) Number of children inspected by the Dentist :

(a) Routine age-groups

AGE	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Total
Number ...	1	163	155	167	164	146	165	167	136	25	1289
(b) Specials ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	88
(c) TOTAL (Routine and Specials)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1377
(2) Number found to require treatment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1112
(3) Number actually treated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	738
(4) Attendances made by children for treatment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1868
(5) Half-days devoted to :—											
Inspection		14									
Treatment		180									
					Total	...	...	...	...	...	194
(6) Fillings (see note above):											
Permanent Teeth			948								
Temporary Teeth			—			Total	...	...	...	...	948
(7) Extractions :—											
Permanent Teeth			493								
Temporary Teeth			2880			Total	...	...	...	...	3373
(8) Administrations of general anaesthetics for extractions									...	...	900
(9) Other Operations :—											
Permanent Teeth			3								
Temporary Teeth			7			Total	...	...	...	...	10

TABLE V.—UNCLEANLINESS AND VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

All cases of uncleanness, however slight, are recorded.

(i) Average number of visits per school department made during the year by the School Nurses	...	...	4
(ii) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses	...	...	9754
(iii) Number of individual children found unclean	...	...	222
(iv) Number of individual children cleansed under Section 87 (2) and (3) of the Education Act, 1921			—
(v) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :			
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	...	...	—
(b) Under School Attendance Byelaws	...	...	—

TABLE VI.

Blind and Deaf Children.

	1 At a Public Elementary School.	2 At an Insti- tution other than a Special School	3 At no School or Institution.	4 Total not rec- eiving suitable education.
Blind Children	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Deaf Children	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Mentally Defective Children

Total number of children notified during the year ended 31st December, 1941, by the Local Education Authority to the Local Mental Deficiency Authority, under the Mental Deficiency (Notification of Children) Regulations, 1928. 2